



February 16, 2024

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Re: SB686 Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program – Establishment

I'm Kitty McIlroy, here as President of Maryland Recycling Network, to support SB0686, following [testimony](#) I gave to the U.S. Senate this past July, on this exact issue. I also bring my experience managing electronics recycling contracts over the last 10 years at the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. I am not speaking on behalf of the Authority.

The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's"), to ensure that the use of virgin materials is minimized, materials otherwise destined for disposal are reused or recycled and there is a strong demand for buying products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

Maryland Recycling Network members include municipal recycling managers, private sector and non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments. We thank Senator Augustine for sponsoring this bill.

Maryland's e-cycling plummeted since the market downturn of 2014 and has not recovered. We were recycling over 19,000,000 million residential pounds per year, now we are recycling under 8,000,000 pounds per year. Local government contracts began to see costs and many started landfilling televisions and computer monitors, the bulk of e-waste. Only 8 of 23 Counties recycle all electronics year-round, without resident drop off fees.

Just six Maryland Jurisdictions have spent over \$8,000,000 since 2014 to run these programs.

This is unsustainable.

This bill will take that financial burden off local government, grow local jobs, and increase our domestic supply of rare earth minerals and precious metals for the auto, jewelry and electronics industries.

It will allow jurisdictions to divert much needed tax revenues to other critical public sector services, eliminate fees at public collection sites, and expand programs, especially for rural areas.

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Maryland already has a consumer fee for tire recycling. This bill complements that law to ensure difficult material is responsibly managed.

Maryland has already proven itself to be a leader, by passing the 3rd e-waste law in the country, back in 2005. We are asking you to lead once again, and finish building on what is already in place.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact MRN via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to improve Maryland's recycling programs and thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Kitty McIlroy
President
Maryland Recycling Network